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# Torrance Herald

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## FAMILY HOMELESS AFTER FIRE

### Major Park Plans Studied by Council

By REID BUNDY  
 Herald Managing Editor

Recommendations for a \$5,000,000 park development program which would include three major parks and a number of neighborhood parks were given to the City Council here Tuesday night in a recreation survey report.

The report, prepared during the past few months by the firm of Kroeger and Associates, was made by Robert Gold, a senior representative of the firm and project director for the survey.

The recommendations called for the acquisition of an additional 231 acres for the city's recreation purposes, and that the city put a bond issue of \$5,000,000 before the people at the earliest practicable date.

#### Speed Urged

"Speed is of the essence if Torrance is to obtain proper sites and keep costs to a minimum," Gold's report to the Council stated. "Bonds should be voted on in the early fall, and, if successful, work should start at once and be completed in two years."

Establishment of a network of 24 four-to-ten acre parks is recommended with a total area of 367 acres. Included in this would be 113 acres of city school play areas, 58 acres of contemplated school areas, and nearly 90 acres of present park sites. Another 100 acres would be needed.

Neighborhood parks would be within a few minutes' walking distance of each home in the city, Gold explained.

#### Use School Areas

Three regional parks—one in north Torrance, one in central Torrance, and one in the southwest area—also are recommended in the report.

The major parks would be within a few minutes' driving distance of any Torrance home, Gold said. They would include use of high school facilities, and the construction of ball diamonds, tennis courts, and other sports areas.

One of the major parks, suggested for the northwest corner of Crenshaw and Sepulveda, could also be the site of a fairgrounds which could be easily accessible to the entire city.

#### Civic Center Site

Expansion of the civic center property by another 35 acres (the city has 55 acres under condemnation) is recommended for the site for an auditorium theater and arts

building, library, an industrial pavilion, and a general community cultural center.

Developments on the three major parks could include swimming pools, tennis courts, ball diamonds, clubhouses, playgrounds and landscaped areas, the report suggested. The neighborhood parks should just be a place to "get outdoors," according to Gold's oral report to the Council.

#### Walteria Lake Park

The southwest area park is suggested for the Walteria Lake area where it could be developed in cooperation with the county's flood control program. The area is ideal also, the report stated, because of the building restrictions which will apply with the new airport master plan.

The report recommends against the acquisition of the 55-acre site north of the civic center for development as a major recreation area for several reasons, including the cost of the valuable industrial land, and the objections to mixing major cultural and recreational facilities onto one area.

#### Other Recommendations

Other recommendations included a requirement that abandoned well sites be turned over to the city for "open spaces" in the growing city, utilization of the sumps in the city by clearing and sloping them to be used for recreation, seek to get the new Del Amo Shopping Center officials to consider play facilities and possible space for branch libraries and such in the center, and increase the park requirement to three acres for each net 100 acres of land to be subdivided.



**CHARRED BIRTH CERTIFICATE . . .** "This was my birth certificate," Dennis Addington tells his sister, Tamara, and brother, Barry Dean. The Addington home at 728 W. 214th St. was completely gutted by the fire while the family was at church on Easter Sunday. The only things not ruined by the fire were a pencil bearing the Ten Commandments and a carton of cigarettes. Some papers, like the birth certificate, were partially destroyed. On the coffee table is a new toy bus which Barry Dean had just received.

### Easter Blaze Adds to Woe

By TOM RISCHE  
 Herald Staff Writer

An Easter Sunday fire which completely gutted their home at 728 W. 214th St. was the latest in a series of misfortunes which have plagued the Hiatt Addington family.

Mr. and Mrs. Addington and their three children left for church Sunday morning about 9:20. At 10:15 a passer-

by reported to the County Fire Department that the home was a blazing inferno. The best that the firefighters could do when they arrived was to save some of the outer walls of the frame house. Apparently none of the neighbors had noticed the blaze which firemen said must have started just after the Addingtons left for church.

#### Arrive Home

When the Addingtons arrived home from the church services they stopped to get gas at a nearby service station and there learned of the tragedy that had befallen them. The interior of their home was a blackened, smoking ruin and the only things they saved were the clothes on their backs and their car.

The only things undamaged in the blaze were a carton of cigarettes and a pencil with the Ten Commandments written on it. All the furniture was destroyed or charred beyond repair. Many of the furnishings had just been purchased and two antique tables which Mrs. Addington said had been in her family for more than 100 years were ruined. A new set of encyclopedias for the children and a new record player were badly charred.

Although an Easter ham was cooking in the oven, firemen said the blaze apparently started in the bedroom. Faulty wiring might have been the cause, they said. Electric clocks all stopped at 10:05 a.m.

#### Live in Trailer

The Addingtons now are living in a trailer at 214th and Vermont until they can find a new home. The Red Cross stepped in to help them with clothes and food, and many neighbors offered their help. Members of their church also gave them some assistance.

"People have been just wonderful," Mrs. Addington declared.

It was on Easter Sunday, 1956, that Addington, a school bus driver, was injured in a freeway accident which disabled him for several weeks. Mrs. Addington spent about six months in the hospital for

#### Shots Exchanged

Police officer T. A. Pattishall and Reserve Hap Harris and Richard Colestock exchanged shots with the suspect, they reported. They had sped to the market when a clerk called to say a robbery was in progress.

Sgt. Robert Wright found the suspect crouched against a nearby garage two hours later while police were searching a 12-block area around the market. The suspect was reported to have \$371 in cash and a .32-caliber German pistol in his possession when captured.

He was arraigned Tuesday and held on \$5000 bail by Judge A. Shidler. Preliminary hearing has been scheduled for April 29.

### Douglas Employees Will Receive \$19,000,000 in Vacation Pay

An all-time record of approximately \$19,000,000 in vacation and sick leave pay checks will be distributed to hourly paid employees of the Douglas Aircraft Co. on Friday, May 17, company officials announced today.

Of this total, the largest chunk—some \$5,840,000—will be split among 22,792 employees of the El Segundo division, which includes plants at El Segundo and Torrance and a warehouse facility at Wilmington.

T. E. Springer, vice president-general manager of the El Segundo division, reported that when coupled with the company's regular weekly payroll, the division's total payments to hourly workers will reach a record peak of \$8,200,000.

#### \$360 In One Day

This means, he said, that the average wage earner will take home about \$360 in a single day, less normal payroll deductions.

The El Segundo division, gest of five Douglas divisions scattered across the na-

### Hospital Building To Start Sept. 1

Present plans call for construction work on the Little Company of Mary Hospital at Torrance Blvd. and Earl St. to begin about Sept. 1, hospital

campaign officials said yesterday.

The officials emphasized that the schedule can be followed only if the building fund campaign reaches its \$776,307 goal by May 31. To date, approximately \$485,000 has been raised.

#### Pipes Removed

The work of removing water pipes from the site of the new hospital started Monday as a preliminary to the actual construction work. Present pipes will be replaced with new pipes to be routed around the property. Thus, excavation can begin as soon as final approval is given by federal and state authorities on architectural plans.

Some industrial gifts are still outstanding and general solicitation should realize an additional \$100,000, officials reported. As of Tuesday afternoon, general solicitation had accounted for \$102,910.75. The retail division, headed by Pete O'Brien, is hopeful of making a substantial report during the coming week.

When the Little Company of Mary has raised its \$776,307 it will receive an additional \$776,307 from the federal government and an equal amount from the state government. These allocations are granted under the Hill-Burton Act.

With the end of the campaign in sight, campaign headquarters put forth an urgent appeal for additional voluntary help in order to complete solicitation of the members of the community. It was pointed out that there has been a generous response by those people already contacted but a much larger committee is needed in order to make the remaining calls.

### Northrop Announces Pay Boost

Approximately 300 hourly rated personnel of Northrop Aircraft's Torrance installation will receive an additional one-cent-an-hour pay hike effective April 29 as a result of the 0.9-point increase in the Consumers' Price Index reported for March 15, Whitley C. Collins, Northrop president, announced yesterday.

The increase was based on a Consumers' Price Index of 118.9 for March 15 as compared to 118 reported for Dec. 15, 1956. Cost of living adjustments are based on quarterly reviews of the index.

### Thieves Get Keys, Car in 4 Burglaries

Burglars who visited four Lomita homes Saturday night apparently were interested only in getting a car, sheriff's deputies reported.

Four homes in the same area were burglarized, but the only theft apparently was car keys at one man's home. They then stole his car.

Frank L. Andrews, 25345 Narbonne Ave., told deputies that burglars had broken into his home, ransacked the house, stolen some car keys, and driven off in his car. Nothing else was missing, he said.

Similar burglaries were reported at the nearby homes of Eugene N. Montgomery, 25415 Feljoa St.; Lena M. Haller, 25538 Lucille St.; and George H. Cassell, 2418 W. 253rd St. In each case, the residents could find nothing missing, although their homes were ransacked.

### South Torrance Will Air Views At Tuesday Meet

Some of the problems of the south Torrance area will be aired at a community-City Council dinner to be held next Tuesday at the Fish Shanty, it was decided Monday at a meeting of the South Torrance Coordinating Group.

The newly-formed group, composed of representatives of 10 south Torrance organizations, has invited members of the City Council to attend to discuss problems of the area.

#### Topics Stated

Among topics slated for discussion, it was announced, are:

1. "Torrance is fast becoming a city of sumps."

Frank Bartley of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn. will charge that there are too many sumps already and that the City Council is planning to create a huge sump which will dwarf anything now there. He will present his views on the solution.

2. "There is no master plan for the South Torrance area."

Arthur Kinane, president of the Southwest Park Civic Assn., will charge that a "so-called master" plan for Torrance has been discriminatorily silent as far as the area is concerned. He will say that "in fact there is no master plan as spelled out in California legislative law."

#### Library Sought

3. "The Lilliputian library of South Torrance is no longer adequate for a giant 'All-America City.'"

Benjamin Russell, president of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners will ask that action be taken to meet present needs for a modern library in

(Continued on Page 2)

### 'Ranchero Days' Meeting Called

An organizational meeting to discuss plans for the July "Torrance Ranchero Days" has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. next Monday, April 29, it was announced here yesterday by Manager Dick Fitzgerald of the Chamber of Commerce.

The five-day event, announced here last week, will be held on Wednesday through Sunday, July 24 to 28 at the Civic Center, and is designed to be the first of a series of annual city-wide celebrations under this format, Fitzgerald said.

#### Rodeo Planned

Highlights of the celebration will include a parade, wild west rodeo, barbecue, carnival and midway, a huge industrial display, and selection of "Miss Torrance."

Organizations interested in participating in the event are sending delegates to the Monday night meeting to begin the detailed preparation of the huge event.

Several phases of the program have been lined up by organizations who already have

started work on the details, according to Fitzgerald's announcement.

#### To Pick Queen

Lt. D. C. Cook and the Torrance Mounted Police will coordinate the huge parade on Saturday, July 27; the Lions Club will sponsor the rodeo on July 27 and 28 as they have in past years; the Civitan Club will sponsor the barbecue; the Junior Chamber of Commerce will handle details of the carnival and midway concessions; and the Torrance Area Youth Band will conduct its annual "Miss Torrance Beauty Pageant" in conjunction with the celebration.

#### Clubs to Participate

The industrial display at the five-day show will be sponsored by the industrial division of the Chamber of Commerce, Fitzgerald said. Glenn Koger, vice president and general manager of Rome Cable Corp. here, will be chairman of this part of the event.

Other service clubs will be permitted to operate concession booths on the midway.



**CLEARING THE WAY . . .** Construction workers begin taking out present water pipes on the site for the Little Company of Mary Hospital at Torrance Blvd. and Earl St. to clear the way for construction of the hospital, for which a Sept. 1 starting date has been set.